



OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN ALBERTA

Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury Claims
and Claim Rates

Health Services
Industries
2006 to 2010



Summer 2011

Government
of Alberta ■

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HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time claim rate and disabling injury rate in 2010.

- In 2010, the lost-time claim rate for the Health Services industries decreased by 1.8% to 2.89 per 100 person-years worked. The average rate for all sectors in the province was 1.41 per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate decreased by 1.3% to 3.54 per 100 person-years worked. The average rate for all sectors in the province was 2.67 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were the result of decreases in the numbers of lost-time claims and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 1.3% and disabling injury claims decreased by 0.8%. Person-years worked estimates increased by 0.6%.

Smaller employers experienced the lowest injury rates.

- Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.14 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate in 2010 at 2.95 per 100 person-years worked.
- Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest disabling injury rate at 1.53 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 3.90 per 100 person-years worked.

The Health Care Services – Other Providers industry had the lowest lost-time claim rate and disabling injury rate.

- In 2010, the Health Care Services – Other Providers industry had the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates of the Health Services industries at 1.14 and 1.38 respectively per 100 person-years worked.
- The Long Term Care industry had the highest disabling injury rate at 5.81 per 100 person-years worked.

In 2010, sprains, strains and tears was the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 68.6% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Health Services industries.
- The back (including spine and spinal cord) was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 32.9% of all disabling injury claims.

- The primary source of injury causing disabling injury claims was person – other than injured or ill worker, which accounted 37.3% of all claims.
- In 2010, the two most common types of event or exposure, overexertion and fall on same level, accounted for 54.3% of disabling injury claims.
- The median work days lost was six, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 18, compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 23 days lost per claim.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2010 data beside 2009 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2010 and were accepted as lost-time or modified work claims by Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) as of March 31, 2011.
- The person-years worked estimates in the *OID 2010 Health Services Industries* report have been provided by the WCB back to 2006, thus previous years OID Health Services industries report numbers and rates will not be comparable.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years worked are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years worked.
- Estimates of year-over-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not total 100, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years worked. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years worked.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information see the industry rate manual on the WCB website.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC provides a standard list of occupations across the country. For more information see <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC>.
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For more information see <http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/GetCatalogItemDetails.asp?mat=2416404>.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2010 lost-time claim rate for the Health Services Industries was 2.89 per 100 person-years worked and the disabling injury rate was 3.54.

The Health Services industries lost-time claim rate decreased in 2010 by 1.8%, to 2.89 per 100 person-years worked. The disabling injury rate decreased by 1.3%, to 3.54 per 100 person-years worked. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.41 per 100 person-years worked and average disabling injury rate was 2.67 per 100 person-years worked.

The injury rates decreased because the number of lost-time claims and disabling injury claims declined and person-years worked increased (see Table 1.1). Lost-time claims decreased by 1.3%, disabling injury claims decreased by 0.8% and person-years worked increased by 0.6%.

Table 1.1

Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	108,574	109,198	0.6%
Lost-time claims	3,192	3,151	-1.3%
Lost-time claim rate	2.94	2.89	-1.8%
Modified-work claims	2,246	2,346	4.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	1,543	1,632	5.8%
Disabling injury claims	3,895	3,865	-0.8%
Disabling injury rate	3.59	3.54	-1.3%
Days-lost (LTC)	54,283	56,821	4.7%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	\$15,482,254	\$17,412,035	12.5%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2010, the median days lost in the Health Services industries was six, while the average days lost per claim was 18. Both of these figures were below their coinciding numbers for all sectors, at seven and 23.

Size of Employer

In the Health Services industries, employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate at 2.95 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked at 2.83. Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.14. Disabling injury rates followed the same

trend with employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked displaying the highest rate, 3.90 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 100 or more person-years worked at 3.59 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 1.2).

Table 1.2

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Size¹ of Employer — Alberta: 2010

Size of Employer	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injuries	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	23	31	1.14	1.53
10 to 19 person-years worked	16	21	1.58	2.07
20 to 39 person-years worked	44	53	2.12	2.56
40 to 99 person-years worked	178	245	2.83	3.90
100 or more person-years worked	2,888	3,513	2.95	3.59
Unspecified	2	2	N/A*	N/A*

*These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years worked equal to zero.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹ Size is measured in terms of person-years worked. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year.

INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS

In 2010, the Health Care Services – Other Providers industry had the lowest lost-time claim rate and disabling injury rate.

Between 2006 and 2009, the Long Term Care Facilities industry had the highest lost-time claim rate. In 2010, the Health Care Services – Covenant Health had the highest lost-time claim rate. Either the Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services industry or the Health Care Services - Other Providers industry had the lowest lost-time claim rates every year since 2005 (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1

**Lost-Time Claim Rate for the Health Services Industries — Alberta:
2006 - 2010**

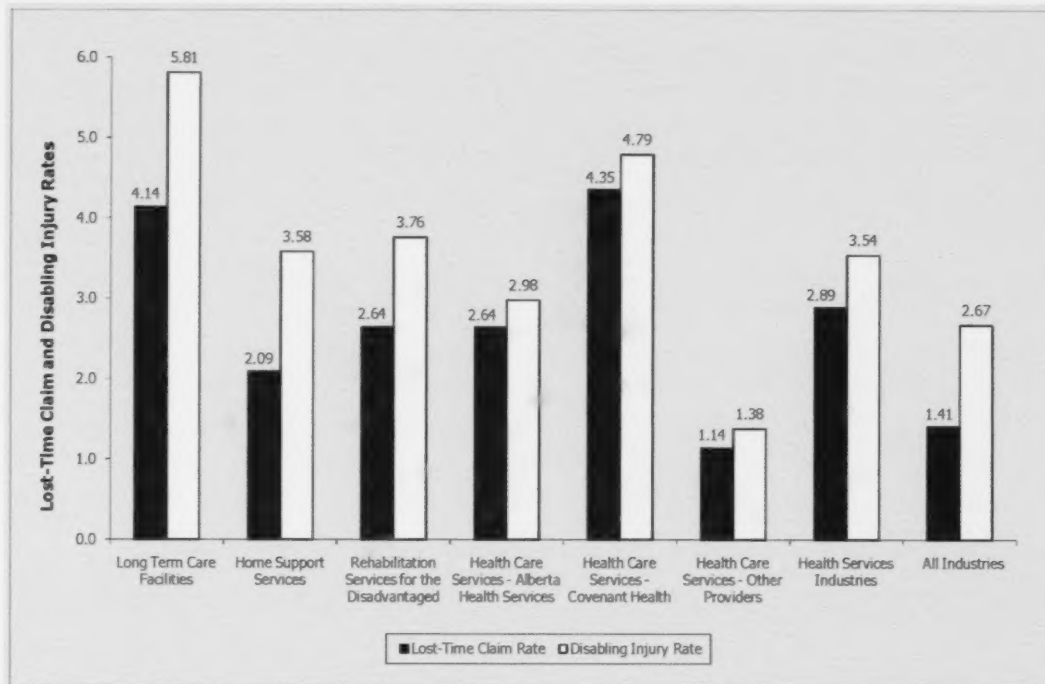
Sub-Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Health Services	3.81	3.28	3.11	2.94	2.89
Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services	3.32	2.85	2.85	2.43	2.64
Home Support Services	4.33	3.15	3.08	2.51	2.09
Health Care Services - Covenant Health	1.78	1.92	1.96	2.99	4.35
Health Care Services - Other Providers	0.81	0.97	0.85	3.48	1.14
Rehabilitation Services for the Disadvantaged	3.80	3.39	2.72	2.97	2.64
Long Term Care Facilities	6.90	5.73	5.14	4.74	4.14

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2010, the Long Term Care Facilities industry had the highest disabling injury rates in the Health Services industries at 5.81 per 100 person-years worked. The Health Care Services - Other Providers industry had the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 1.14 and 1.38 per 100 person-years worked (see Chart 2.1).

Chart 2.1

Lost-time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates for the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2010



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services

Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services was the largest industry in the Health Services industries accounting for 63.3% of the person-years worked. In 2010, the lost-time claim rate increased by 8.6%, to 2.64 per 100 person-years worked. The disabling injury rate increased by 7.7% to 2.98 per 100 person-years worked.

The increase in the lost-time claim rate was the result of a 13.8% increase in lost-time claims. The increase in the disabling injury rate was the result of a 12.9% increase in disabling injury claims.

Table 2.2

Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	65,994	69,143	4.8%
Lost-time claims	1,605	1,827	13.8%
Lost-time claim rate	2.43	2.64	8.6%
Modified-work claims	956	1,142	19.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	733	906	23.6%
Disabling injury claims	1,828	2,063	12.9%
Disabling injury rate	2.77	2.98	7.7%
Days-lost (LTC)	29,551	36,824	24.6%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$8,675,132	\$11,150,647	28.5%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Home Support Services

In 2010, the Home Support Services industry lost-time claim rate decreased by 16.9%, to 2.09 per 100 person-years worked. The disabling injury rate increased by 2.9%, to 3.58 per 100 person-years worked.

The decrease in the lost-time claim rate was the result of a 10.1% decrease in lost-time claims and an 8.1% increase in person-years worked. The increase in the disabling injury rate was the result of an 11.3% increase in disabling injury claims (see Table 2.3).

Table 2.3

Home Support Services — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	4,340	4,693	8.1%
Lost-time claims	109	98	-10.1%
Lost-time claim rate	2.51	2.09	-16.9%
Modified-work claims	97	137	41.2%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	55	67	21.8%
Disabling injury claims	151	168	11.3%
Disabling injury rate	3.48	3.58	2.9%
Days-lost (LTC)	2,486	2,225	-10.5%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$498,583	\$493,617	-1.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Health Care Services - Covenant Health

In 2010, the Health Care Services – Covenant Health industry had a lost-time claim rate of 4.35 per 100 person-years worked, an increase of 45.5% from 2009. The disabling injury rate increased by 43.1%, to 4.79 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 2.4).

Table 2.4

Health Care Services - Covenant Health — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	8,367	6,349	-24.1%
Lost-time claims	250	276	10.4%
Lost-time claim rate	2.99	4.35	45.5%
Modified-work claims	157	125	-20.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	127	97	-23.6%
Disabling injury claims	280	304	8.6%
Disabling injury rate	3.35	4.79	43.1%
Days-lost (LTC)	3,757	4,163	10.8%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$1,330,696	\$1,324,966	-0.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Health Care Services - Other Providers

The Health Care Services – Other Providers industry experienced a 67.4% decrease in the lost-time claim rate, to 1.14 in 2010, the lowest in the Health Services industries. This industry is relatively small in comparison to other industries and the injury rates can vary significantly from year to year as can the related measures of days-lost and compensation costs (see Table 2.5).

Table 2.5

Health Care Services - Other Providers — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	2,239	3,694	65.0%
Lost-time claims	78	42	-46.2%
Lost-time claim rate	3.48	1.14	-67.4%
Modified-work claims	54	22	-59.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	40	13	-67.5%
Disabling injury claims	92	51	-44.6%
Disabling injury rate	4.11	1.38	-66.4%
Days-lost (LTC)	3,532	1,434	-59.4%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$803,793	\$469,806	-41.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Rehabilitation Services for the Disadvantaged

The lost-time claim rate for Rehabilitation Services for the Disadvantaged industry decreased by 11.0%, to 2.64 per 100 person-years worked in 2010. The disabling injury rate decreased by 10.3%, to 3.76 per 100 person-years worked.

The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were caused by a 7.1% decrease in lost-time claims, a 6.4% decrease in disabling injury claims and an increase in person-years worked, 4.3% (see Table 2.6).

Table 2.6

Rehabilitation Services for the Disadvantaged — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	8,965	9,352	4.3%
Lost-time claims	266	247	-7.1%
Lost-time claim rate	2.97	2.64	-11.0%
Modified-work claims	212	230	8.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	102	125	22.5%
Disabling injury claims	376	352	-6.4%
Disabling injury rate	4.19	3.76	-10.3%
Days-lost (LTC)	4,509	4,095	-9.2%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$1,166,646	\$1,162,677	-0.3%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Long Term Care Facilities

The Long Term Care Facilities industry had the highest disabling injury rate in the Health Services industries in 2010, at 5.81 per 100 person-years worked, although decreased from 2009 by 7.2%.

The decreases in lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were the result of 25.2% decrease in lost-time claims, a 20.6% decrease in disabling injury claims (see Table 2.7).

Table 2.7

Long Term Care Facilities — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	18,669	15,967	-14.5%
Lost-time claims	884	661	-25.2%
Lost-time claim rate	4.74	4.14	-12.6%
Modified-work claims	770	690	-10.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	486	424	-12.8%
Disabling injury claims	1,168	927	-20.6%
Disabling injury rate	6.26	5.81	-7.2%
Days-lost (LTC)	10,448	8,080	-22.7%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$3,007,404	\$2,810,323	-6.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2010, 35.0% of lost-time claims and 36.0% of disabling injury claims in the Health Services industries occurred in the Assisting Occupations in Support of Health Services occupation group. This group accounted for 15.2% of those employed in these industries². In comparison, Clerical occupations accounted for 2.5% of lost-time claims, 2.5% of disabling injury claims and 10.3% of those employed (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1

Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation Group — Alberta: 2010

Occupation Group	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Assisting Occupations in Support of Health Services	35.0%	36.0%	15.2%
Nurse Supervisors and Registered Nurses	17.2%	16.3%	18.3%
Technical and Related Occupations in Health	15.9%	15.1%	12.6%
Sales & Service Occupations N.E.C.*	10.8%	10.5%	6.9%
Childcare and Home Support Workers	5.7%	5.9%	2.7%
Paralegals, Social Services Workers and Occupations in Education and Religion, N.E.C.*	4.6%	5.5%	12.6%
Clerical Occupations	2.5%	2.5%	10.3%
All Other Occupations	8.3%	8.3%	21.5%

*Not Elsewhere Classified

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2010, 30.5% of lost-time claims and 30.6% of disabling injury claims were from workers aged 45 to 54 years. Young workers, those aged 15 to 24 years, accounted for 6.3% of lost-time claims and 6.9% of disabling injury claims.

² Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.

Table 3.2

Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Age in the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

Age	2009				2010			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	30	0.9%	40	1.0%	20	0.6%	25	0.6%
20-24 Years	250	7.8%	312	8.0%	180	5.7%	245	6.3%
25-34 Years	626	19.6%	763	19.6%	645	20.5%	779	20.2%
35-44 Years	740	23.2%	917	23.5%	808	25.6%	983	25.4%
45-54 Years	961	30.1%	1,162	29.8%	961	30.5%	1,181	30.6%
55-64 Years	542	17.0%	650	16.7%	485	15.4%	590	15.3%
65+ Years	43	1.3%	51	1.3%	52	1.7%	62	1.6%
Total	3,192	100.0%	3,895	100.0%	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Health Services industries, 86.0% of lost-time claims and 86.5% of disabling injury claims were from women, and 13.9% and 13.4% were from men. The proportion of claims from women broadly reflects the labour market composition of this industry, with women accounting for 82.7% of those employed in the Health Services industries.¹

Table 3.3

Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Gender in the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2009 - 2010

Gender	2009				2010			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	2,796	87.6%	3,403	87.4%	2,711	86.0%	3,343	86.5%
Men	396	12.4%	490	12.6%	439	13.9%	517	13.4%
Unspecified	0	N/A	2	N/A	1	N/A	5	N/A
Total	3,192	100.0%	3,895	100.0%	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2010 Historical Review) for the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part. Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Health Services industries.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2010, 91.5% of lost-time and 92.6% of disabling injury claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The most common traumatic injury and disorder was sprains, strains and tears, representing 67.1% of lost-time claims and 68.6% of disabling injury claims (see Table 4.1).

Note 4.1

Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information. The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

Table 4.1

**Nature of Injury or Disease in the Health Services Industries —
Alberta: 2010**

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	2,884	91.5%	3,578	92.6%
Sprains, Strains and Tears	2,113	67.1%	2,650	68.6%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	253	8.0%	314	8.1%
Fractures and Dislocations	116	3.7%	126	3.3%
Burns	48	1.5%	52	1.3%
Open Wounds	76	2.4%	97	2.5%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	278	8.8%	339	8.8%
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	99	3.1%	99	2.6%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	123	3.9%	141	3.6%
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	27	0.9%	28	0.7%
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	16	0.5%	16	0.4%
Nature of Injury - Unknown	2	0.1%	3	0.1%
Total	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2010, the trunk was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 49.9% of lost-time claims and 50.6% of disabling injury claims in the Health Services industries. This was followed by upper extremities with 16.1% and 17.5% of lost-time and disabling injury claims, respectively (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2

Part of Body Injured in the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2010

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	1,572	49.9%	1,954	50.6%
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	1,025	32.5%	1,270	32.9%
Other Trunk	547	17.4%	684	17.7%
Upper Extremities	506	16.1%	677	17.5%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	222	7.0%	302	7.8%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	106	3.4%	141	3.6%
Other Upper Extremities	178	5.6%	234	6.1%
Multiple Body Parts	319	10.1%	372	9.6%
Lower Extremities	420	13.3%	494	12.8%
Leg(s)	230	7.3%	270	7.0%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	168	5.3%	200	5.2%
Other Lower Extremities	22	0.7%	24	0.6%
Body Systems	147	4.7%	148	3.8%
Head	99	3.1%	108	2.8%
Eye(s)	21	0.7%	23	0.6%
Other Head Parts	78	2.5%	85	2.2%
Neck, Including Throat	86	2.7%	110	2.8%
Part of Body - Unknown	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Other Body Parts	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Total	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact with resulting in an injury or disease. In 2010, person – other than injured or ill worker accounted for 36.7% and 37.3% of the total lost-time claims and disabling injury claims while person – injured or ill worker accounted for 16.2% and 16.4% respectively (see Table 4.3).

Table 4.3

Source of Injury or Disease in the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2010

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	1,812	57.5%	2,226	57.6%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	1,157	36.7%	1,442	37.3%
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	511	16.2%	635	16.4%
Minerals-Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	2	0.1%	3	0.1%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	142	4.5%	146	3.8%
Structures and Surfaces	468	14.9%	561	14.5%
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	223	7.1%	286	7.4%
Hand Tools - Nonpowered	30	1.0%	38	1.0%
Hand Tools - Powered	3	0.1%	3	0.1%
Other Tools and Equipments	190	6.0%	245	6.3%
Containers**	157	5.0%	189	4.9%
Vehicles	142	4.5%	168	4.3%
Furniture and Fixtures	122	3.9%	153	4.0%
Machinery	59	1.9%	75	1.9%
Parts and Materials	45	1.4%	59	1.5%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	37	1.2%	39	1.0%
Other Sources	64	2.0%	77	2.0%
Source of Injury - Unknown	22	0.7%	32	0.8%
Total	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

*Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

**Containers: classifies receptacles commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The most common type of event or exposure was overexertion. In 2010, overexertion accounted for 41.5% of lost-time claims and 42.3% of disabling injury claims (see Table 4.4).

Table 4.4

Type of Event or Exposure in the Health Services Industries — Alberta: 2010

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	1,899	60.3%	2,373	61.4%
Overexertion	1,307	41.5%	1,633	42.3%
Bodily Reaction*	341	10.8%	420	10.9%
Repetitive Motion	123	3.9%	154	4.0%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	128	4.1%	166	4.3%
Falls	438	13.9%	531	13.7%
Fall on Same Level	382	12.1%	465	12.0%
Fall to Lower Level	48	1.5%	55	1.4%
Other Falls	8	0.3%	11	0.3%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	304	9.6%	379	9.8%
Struck by Object	157	5.0%	201	5.2%
Struck against Object	85	2.7%	102	2.6%
Caught in Object	38	1.2%	47	1.2%
Rubbed or Abraded	3	0.1%	3	0.1%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	21	0.7%	26	0.7%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	247	7.8%	253	6.5%
Assaults and Violent Acts	180	5.7%	226	5.8%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	159	5.0%	202	5.2%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	21	0.7%	24	0.6%
Transportation Accidents	77	2.4%	93	2.4%
Type of Event - Unknown	6	0.2%	10	0.3%
Total	3,151	100.0%	3,865	100.0%

*Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Days-lost due to Disability

In 2010, 58.8% of lost-time claims in the Health Services industries resulted in days-lost of 10 days or less. Claims with one to five days' duration represented 45.3% of all claims, and claims with six to ten days' duration accounted for 13.5% (see Table 4.5). In the Health Services industries 8.9% of lost-time claims were for 51 days or more. For all sectors in the province, 13.9% of claimants were unable to work for 51 days or more.

Table 4.5
Days-lost due to Disability — Alberta: 2010

Days-lost due to Disability	% of Health Industries' Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	45.3%	37.9%
6-10 Days	13.5%	13.6%
11-15 Days	7.8%	7.5%
16-20 Days	5.1%	4.9%
21-30 Days	6.8%	6.5%
31-40 Days	5.1%	4.7%
41-50 Days	2.8%	3.5%
51 Days or More	8.9%	13.9%
Unspecified	4.7%	7.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2010, the WCB accepted two fatalities in the Health Services industries.

Since 2006, two fatalities in the Health Services industries accepted by WCB were motor vehicle incidents, five fatalities were workplace incidents and one was an occupational disease fatality.

Table 5.1

Types of Occupational Fatalities in the Health Services Industries Accepted by the WCB – Alberta: 2006 - 2010

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident	Workplace Incident	Occupational Disease	Total Number of Fatalities
2006	1	0	0	1
2007	0	1	0	1
2008	0	1	0	1
2009	0	2	1	3
2010	1	1	0	2
Total	2	5	1	8

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are jointly issued by Certifying Partners and E&I.⁴

In 2010, 8.9% of Health Services industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 48.1% of the total person-years worked in the Health Services industries. In the Health Care Services - Covenant Health industry, 13.3% of employers had a valid COR, representing 71.4% of the total person-years worked in this industry. In addition, 40.4% of employers in the Long Term Care Facilities industry were COR holders, accounting for 82.2% of all person-years worked (see Table 8.1).

Table 6.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2010

Sub-Sector	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Health Services Industries	8.9%	48.1%
Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services	8.5%	44.8%
Health Care Services - Covenant Health	13.3%	71.4%
Health Care Services - Other Providers	25.5%	52.0%
Home Support Services	0.4%	10.7%
Long Term Care Facilities	40.4%	82.2%
Rehabilitation Services for the Disadvantaged	5.8%	16.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2009 and 2010, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders in the Health Services industries decreased by 2.7% to 3.24 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders decreased by 7.2% to 2.56 per 100 person-years worked. Disabling injury rates for COR holders decreased by 2.7% to 3.95 per 100 person-years worked, and the rate for

⁴ For more information on the COR program visit <http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html>

non-COR holders decreased by 4.5% to 3.16 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 6.2). Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. While this group is seeing continued improvement, some non-COR holders may have good health and safety programs that may even exceed the COR standard. These employers are being counted along with those employers that may have no health and safety systems in place. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for non-COR holders.

Table 6.2

**Lost-Time Claim Rate for Health Services COR Holders —
Alberta: 2009 - 2010**

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2009	163	1,758	2,145	3.33	4.06	-2.7%	-2.7%
	2010	162	1,701	2,075	3.24	3.95		
Non-COR	2009	1,620	1,540	1,847	2.76	3.31	-7.2%	-4.5%
	2010	1,650	1,450	1,790	2.56	3.16		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared Data Development and Evaluation

REFERENCES

Alberta Employment and Immigration. "Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta 2010 Summary."

Canadian Standards Association. *Z795-03: Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information*, June 2003.

Statistics Canada. "Guide to the Labour Force Survey," 2010

The Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta. "Rate and Industry Description Manual"

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. <http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html>

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2010 Historical Review) for the Health Care and Social Assistance industry

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim	A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.
Modified Work Claim	A modified work claim is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where workers had their normal work duties altered to enable them to remain working without losing time from work. Also included are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.
Disabling Injury Claim	Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both lost-time and modified work to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.
Person-Years Worked	Person-years worked are estimates provided by the WCB. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.
Lost-Time Claim Rate	The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-years worked estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.
	$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$
Disabling Injury Rate	The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-years worked estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the lost-time claim rate although it covers

a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work). The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

$$\text{Disabling Injury Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Days lost

The days-lost is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the days-lost reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Industry Coverage

This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years worked estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 1,000,000$$

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications (employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force) and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification from WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see
<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2599.html>

APPENDIX B: HEALTH SERVICES INDUSTRIES WCB INDUSTRY CODES⁵

- 82100 – Health Care Services - Alberta Health Services**
- 82704 – Home Support Services**
- 82705 – Health Care Services - Covenant Health**
- 82710 – Health Care Services - Other Providers**
- 82806 – Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally or Physically
Disadvantaged**
- 82808 – Long Term Care Facilities**

⁵ Codes are Workers' Compensation Board industry codes.

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Employment and Immigration website:

<http://employment.alberta.ca>

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafe.alberta.ca

Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html>

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html>